

R. Michael Turnnspeed, Director

ALLEN BIAGGI, Administrator

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TDD 687-4678

Administration
Water Pollution Control
Facsimile 687-5856
Mining Regulations & Reclamation
Facsimile 684-5259

State of Nevada
KENNY C. GUINN
Governor



Waste Management
Corrective Actions
Federal Facilities

Air Quality
Water Quality Planning

Facsimile 687-6396

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Notice of Proposed Action

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection gives notice that an application for a Temporary Water Pollution Control Permit for a mineral processing facility has been properly filed with the Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City. The applicant for Permit TNEV2003115 is:

Metallic Ventures (U.S.), Inc.
2800 Lucky Boy Pass Road
Hawthorne, NV 89415

The project, known as the Esmeralda Project, is a gold mining operation located in Mineral County, in Township 5N, Range 28E, Sections 8, 17 and 18. The facility was formerly owned and operated by Nevada Goldfields, Inc. The town nearest the project is Hawthorne, Nevada, approximately 20 miles to the northeast. The facility consists of underground mines, tailings impoundment, reclaim water pond, and a processing facility. Metallic Ventures (U.S.), Inc. is requesting to temporarily discharge into the Humboldt Pit Lake, dewatering solution currently stored in the tailings pond and which meets the Division's Profile I Criteria Pollutant Standards. Dewatering solution refers to the water removed from the underground mines as the result of increased mine development.

The Administrator is constrained to issue this Temporary Water Pollution Control Permit, to deny the application, to refuse issuance of the permit or

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to issue written notice to the applicant that a permit is not required. The Administrator has made the tentative determination to issue this temporary permit with an effective duration of 180 days and which embodies best management practices, the best available technology economically achievable for the control of pollutants and contaminants associated with this facility and appropriate monitoring systems for the detection of any fugitive contaminants.

Persons wishing to comment upon the proposed permit, to recommend terms and conditions for consideration of incorporation into the permit, or who request a public hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, NAC Chapter 445A, must submit their comments, objections, or requests no later than 5:00 PM on the 14th day following the date of publication of this notice in the Mineral County Independent-News (i.e. by January 7, 2004) to:

Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
Capitol Complex
333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, NV 89706-0851

Attn: Rob Kuczynski, P.E.

All comments or objections received during the public notice period will be considered in the final determination regarding this permit. If the Division determines written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in this matter, the Administrator shall schedule a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of NAC 445A.405.

The permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Rob Kuczynski, at (775) 687-9441, toll free in Nevada (800) 992-0900, extension 4670, or visit our website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.html>. Please bring this notice of proposed action to the attention of any person whom you believe would be interested in this matter.